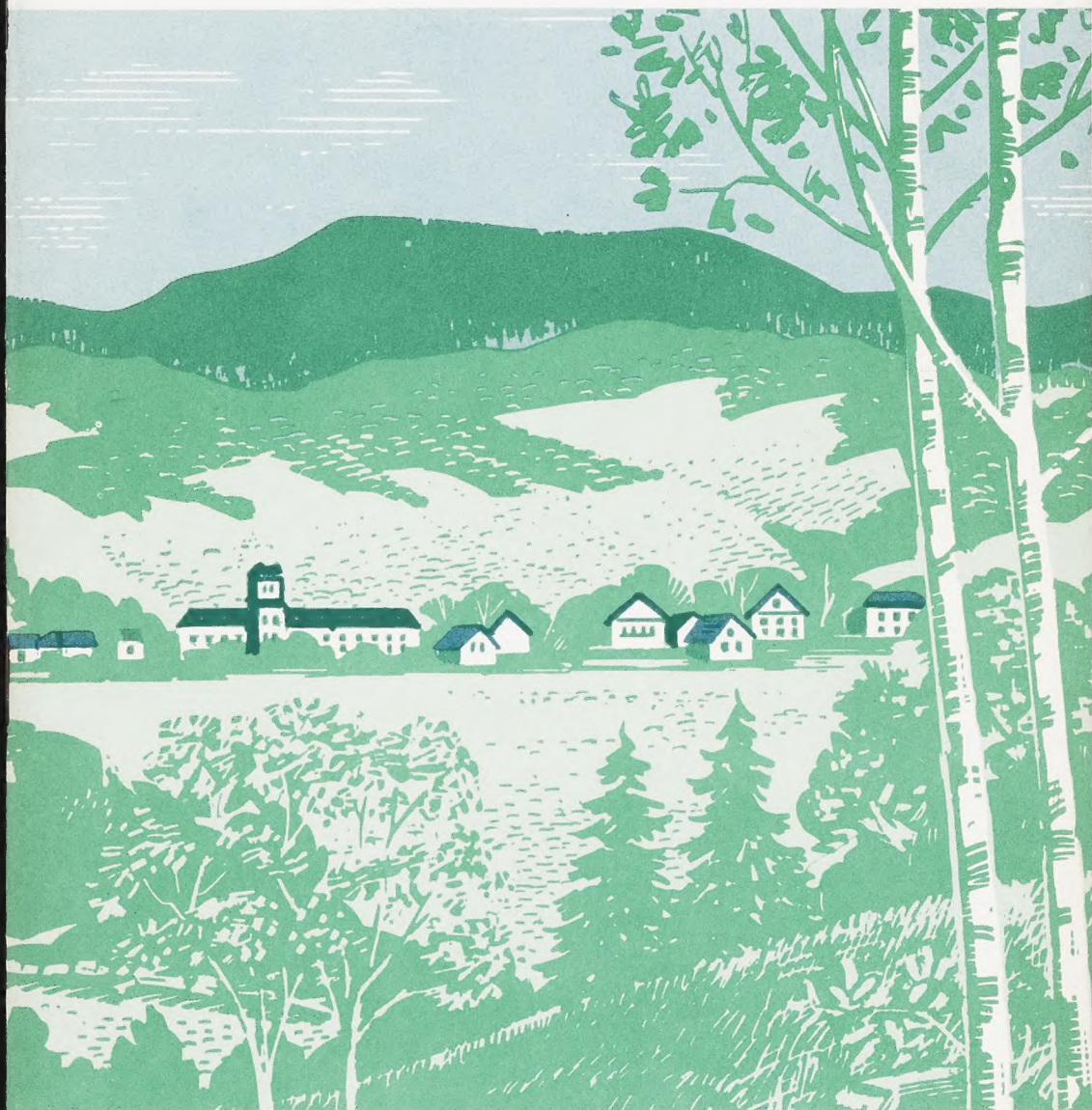


MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

# Bread Loaf Writers' Conference



**Middlebury College Bulletin**

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

SAMUEL S. STRATTON, President of Middlebury College

STEPHEN A. FREEMAN, Vice-President of Middlebury College  
and Director of the Language Schools

JOHN CIARDI, Director of the Writers' Conference

PAUL M. CUBETA, Assistant Director of the Writers' Conference

MRS. BARBARA FILAN, Secretary of the Language Schools

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

# Writers' Conference *at* Bread Loaf

August 14–August 28, 1957

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

## WHAT IS BREAD LOAF?

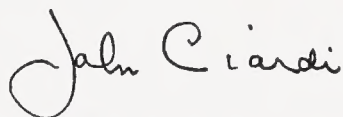
"In Milan," a friend of mine once said, "opera is not studied; it is inhaled." The same thing could be said about writing and Bread Loaf. A lot of learning happens on the mountain, but no studying. For Bread Loaf is one of those natural inhaling-places, a whole atmosphere of ideas. At lectures, workshops, individual conferences, over coffee, in the dining hall, and far into the night, writing is up for discussion. One may agree or disagree with what is being said, but he cannot fail to breathe in ideas.

Shaping all this activity and good excitement is a formed and tested body of writing principles and discussion methods. Bread Loaf is proud of its position as the original Writers' Conference. The very idea of the Writers' Conference was born at Bread Loaf and in the, now, thirty-two years during which the idea has grown, many important minds have contributed to it. Such men as Robert Frost, Theodore Morrison, Bernard DeVoto, Fletcher Pratt, and William Sloane have



worked year after year at developing the Bread Loaf idea. As a result of their long association, Bread Loaf has become far more than a merely random series of lectures. Year after year, I have seen high school and college teachers fill up in two weeks of Bread Loaf the notebooks that would fuel their lectures for a whole school year—and then found them back the next year to load up again.

But the real Bread Loaf cannot be transplanted. I am myself a college teacher of writing, and I have been lecturing at Bread Loaf for many years now; yet I cannot take home with me more than the fragments of Bread Loaf. The real Bread Loaf, the climate of learning created by the Conference Members, the Staff, the Fellows, the scholarship Waiters and Waitresses, by all the people who bring their abilities and their energies up the mountain—that is the essence of Bread Loaf, and that is the part one cannot take away from the mountain. One has to go to it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Ciardi". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

*Director*

## THE STAFF

### *Administration*

**John Ciardi**, Director of the Conference, is an Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University, the Executive Editor of Twayne Publishers, Inc., and Poetry Editor of the *Saturday Review*. He is the editor of *Mid-Century American Poets* and the translator of Dante's *Inferno*. Mr. Ciardi, who was recently elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters, is at present in Rome translating Dante's *Purgatorio* under a grant from the American



Academy of Arts and Letters. His volumes of poetry include *Other Skies*, *Live Another Day*, *From Time to Time*, and *As If*.



**Paul M. Cubeta**, Assistant Director of the Conference, is an Assistant Professor of English at Middlebury College, on leave this year to teach at Harvard University as a Carnegie Fellow in General Education. He is the editor of *Modern Drama for Analysis*.

### *Fiction*

**Léonie Adams**, poet, teacher, and former Guggenheim Fellow, was the winner of the 1954 Bollingen Award, sharing honors with Louise Bogan. Miss Adams is an instructor in the School of Professional Writing at Columbia University and the author of *Those Not Elect*, *High Falcon*, and *Poems: A Selection*.

### *Nonfiction*

### *Poetry*

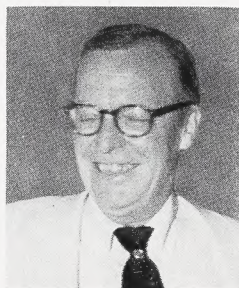




(Courtesy of Louise  
Dahl-Wolfe)

**Kay Boyle**, short story writer, novelist, and former Guggenheim Fellow, was a correspondent for the *New Yorker* magazine in Germany from 1946 to 1953. Miss Boyle has twice been awarded the O. Henry Memorial Prize for the best short story of the year. She has published twelve novels, six collections of short stories, two books of poetry, and a children's book. They include *Wedding Day and Other Stories*; *Plagued by the Nightingale*; *Year Before Last*; *The First Lover and Other Stories*; *Gentlemen, I Address You Privately*; *My Next Bride*; *The White Horses of Vienna and Other Stories*; *Death of a Man*; *Monday Night*; *Glad Day*; *The Youngest Camel*; *The Crazy Hunter*; *Primer for Combat*; *Avalanche*; *Frenchmen Must Die*; *Thirty Stories*; *His Human Majesty*; *The Smoking Mountain*; *Stories of Post-War Germany*; and *The Seagull on the Step*.

**A. B. Guthrie, Jr.**, Pulitzer-prize winning novelist, was a former reporter and Nieman Fellow. He is the author of *The Big Sky*, *The Way West*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1949, and *These Thousand Hills*.



**William Raney**, editor, was the former executive editor of Rinehart and Company and editor-in-chief at Henry Holt and Company and at E. P. Dutton and Company. He is the editor of the Trade Department at McGraw-Hill Book Company.



**William Sloane**, novelist and editor, is the author of *To Walk the Night*, *The Edge of Running Water*, and *Stories for Tomorrow*. The former president of William Sloane Associates, he is Director of the Rutgers University Press.



**Mildred Walker**, novelist and teacher, is the author of ten novels, the first of which, *Fireweed*, won the Avery Hopwood Award at the University of Michigan. Her novel *The Southwest Corner* was dramatized and appeared on Broadway last year. Other works include *The Brewers' Big Horses*, *Unless the Wind Turns*, *Winter Wheat*, *Medical Meeting*, *The Quarry*, and *The Curlew's Cry*.

### *Juvenile Literature*

**Eunice Blake** is the Editor of Children's Books at J. B. Lippincott Company. Previously an editor at Thomas Nelson and Sons, the Macmillan Company, and Oxford University Press, Miss Blake was instrumental in founding, and was subsequently chairman of, The Children's Book Council, which serves as the trade association of juvenile book publishers in this country.

A frequent lecturer on juvenile literature, she has led discussion groups at the Association for Childhood Education International, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Chicago.



*Special Lecturers*

**Robert Frost**

**Lincoln Barnett**, feature writer for *Life Magazine*, is the author of *The Universe and Dr. Einstein* and *The World We Live In*.

**Catherine Drinker Bowen**, biographer, is the author of *Beloved Friend*, a biography of Tchaikowsky; *Free Artist: The Story of Anton and Nicholas Rubenstein*; *Yankee from Olympus*, a biography of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes; *John Adams and the American Revolution*, and *The Lion and the Throne*, a biography of Sir Edward Coke.

**David McCord**, poet, Guggenheim Fellow in 1954, Lowell Institute Lecturer in 1950, has been Executive Secretary of the Harvard Fund Council since 1925. He is the author and editor of more than twenty books including five of poetry and three of light verse. His second book of poems was *The Crows* (1934); the most recent, *The Old Bateau* (1953). His collected poems for children appeared in 1952 under the title of *Far and Few. Odds Without Ends* (1954) is light verse. *What Cheer* (1945), a comprehensive anthology of British and American humorous and witty verse, is now in the Modern Library.

**Winfred van Atta**, editor and author, is the Managing Director of the Sears Readers' Club. He has written nearly one hundred short stories and articles published in such magazines as *Reader's Digest*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Liberty*, *Esquire*, *Coronet*, *True Story*, *Detective Story Magazine*, etc.

**Richard Wilbur**, poet and teacher, was a former Guggenheim Fellow and a former Prix de Rome Fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Mr. Wilbur, who was recently elected a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, is a member of the English Department of Wellesley College. His latest volume of poetry, *Things of This World*, was awarded the 1956 National Book



Award in Poetry. Besides his other volumes of poetry, *The Beautiful Changes* and *Ceremony, and Other Poems*, Mr. Wilbur has written a verse translation of Molière's *Misanthrope* and has provided the lyrics for the musical *Candide*.

#### THE HISTORY OF BREAD LOAF

Bread Loaf Inn was opened as a hotel in the 1860's by Joseph Battell, who wrote books, bred Morgan horses and kept the Morgan stallion register, and believed in the preservation of forests. He acquired over thirty thousand acres of forest lands and left this property, with the Inn, to Middlebury College as his residuary legatee. Most of the forest is now national park; the Inn is no longer a public hotel, but the living quarters of two of the Middlebury College Summer Schools, the Bread Loaf School of English in the early summer and the Writers' Conference during the last two weeks of August.

The Conference, the first of its kind in the country, began in 1926 under the direction of John Farrar, then editor of the *Bookman*, who was succeeded in 1929 by Robert M. Gay. Theodore Morrison, novelist, teacher, and poet, became Director in 1932, and under his leadership the Conference gained much of the prestige which it commands today. In 1955 John Ciardi took over as Director. Another major force in creating and sustaining Bread Loaf has been Robert Frost, who has been with the Conference from the beginning and continues to extend its dimension of height and depth today. Perhaps the most tangible evidence of its increasing usefulness has been the extent to which, in recent years, publishers, visiting writers, members of the Conference itself, and members of the staff have offered fellowships to Bread Loaf, believing that it has something to contribute to the writing of the future.

#### LIFE AT BREAD LOAF

PLAN OF THE DAY Morning sessions of the Conference begin at 9:00 and continue, with brief interludes, until shortly before lunch. A session after lunch is held on weekdays and an evening lecture is customary every day. During the first week, morning and afternoon sessions are largely devoted to talks by staff members on the

techniques of the main forms of writing. During the second week, sessions are for the most part discussions of manuscripts submitted by contributing members. Individual interviews for criticism are mainly concentrated during the second week. The Conference aims at a balance between work and time for recreation and for making acquaintance both with people and with the country. All attendance at sessions is, of course, purely voluntary. The schedule is so arranged that members can attend all of the extensive discussion program if they wish.

**ACCOMMODATIONS** No rooms will be ready for occupancy until Wednesday morning, August 14.

All rooms are completely furnished; blankets, bed linen, and towels are supplied. Only a small proportion of the rooms at Bread Loaf are single rooms. Anyone making application should be prepared to accept a double room as the single rooms are all chosen quite early. It is assumed that members will live on campus. The Secretary will make every effort to assure a satisfactory assignment. A doctor and a resident



*THE FELLOWS, 1956*

REAR: *Herbert Kenny, Paxton Davis, Robin White, Wilbur Cross III, Evans Harrington*  
FRONT: *Mrs. Kenny, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Leon Levine, Mrs. Evans Harrington*

nurse will be in attendance, and the well-equipped Porter Hospital at Middlebury is within easy reach.

**MEALS** Meals are served at stated hours in the dining room of the Inn, which is operated and staffed by Middlebury College under the supervision of an expert and trained dietitian. No individual provision can be made in the dining hall for persons who require special diets of any kind.

**SNACK BAR** Late breakfasts and afternoon and evening snacks may be obtained for a small charge. The snack bar offers short-order cooking as well as ice cream, sandwiches, hot and cold drinks.

**WAITERS** A few positions are open for those desiring to earn most of their summer expenses by waiting on table. The compensation for Contributors is board, room, and partial tuition; for Auditors, board, room, and tuition. Application blanks may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Language Schools.

**RECREATION** For those who are keen about outdoor life, the Conference is ideally located at the edge of Battell Forest. A junction with the Long Trail—"a footpath in the wilderness"—which winds along the summit of the Green Mountains and extends from southern Vermont to the Canadian border, is a short hike from Bread Loaf.

Softball playing fields, tennis courts, and croquet courts are available. There is also a golf course in Middlebury. Saddle horses are usually procurable at reasonable rates. Bathing beaches at Lake Dunmore, one of the most attractive of Vermont lakes, are twelve miles from the Conference. There is also swimming in the mountain streams at or immediately about Bread Loaf.

#### CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. *Contributors* Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as Contributors. Contributors are asked to submit, at the time of







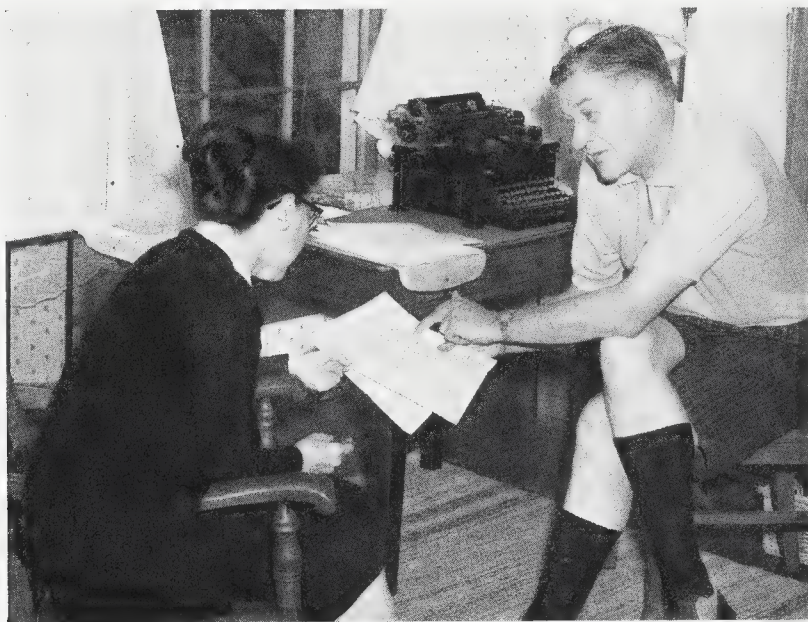


application, examples of the kind of writing of which they will later expect criticism at Bread Loaf. In general it is expected that Contributors will submit manuscripts in only *one* field. Work in progress or completed manuscripts may be presented for criticism. The Conference is unable to accept manuscripts of plays or television scripts. The Director reserves the right to limit the amount of material submitted by any Contributor.

2. *Auditors* Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as Auditors. Auditors may attend all lectures and participate in all open discussions. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.

### ADMISSION

Both Contributors and Auditors are subject to selection. The basis of admission for Contributors will be the examples of their work they



*Mr. van Atta confers with a Contributor*





*THE STAFF, 1956*

*REAR: Robeson Bailey, William Raney, Max Steele, Paul Cubeta*

*CENTER: Bruce Lancaster, Merle Miller, A. B. Guthrie, Jr., Mildred Walker, Catherine Drinker Bowen*

*FRONT: William Sloane, Kay Boyle, Robert Frost, Léonie Adams, John Ciardi*

submit with their applications. First choice will be given to those who, in the judgment of a preliminary reader, show professional promise. But inexperienced or beginning writers will be admitted if the preliminary reader considers that they are likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. The basis of admission for Auditors will be any evidence the applicant offers of serious literary interest, such as published work or active concern with writing or teaching.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Write for an application blank to the Secretary, Language Schools Office, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.
2. Return the filled-out application to Paul M. Cubeta, Assistant Director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, 727 Pleasant Street, Belmont 78, Massachusetts. (After August 1, 1957: Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.)



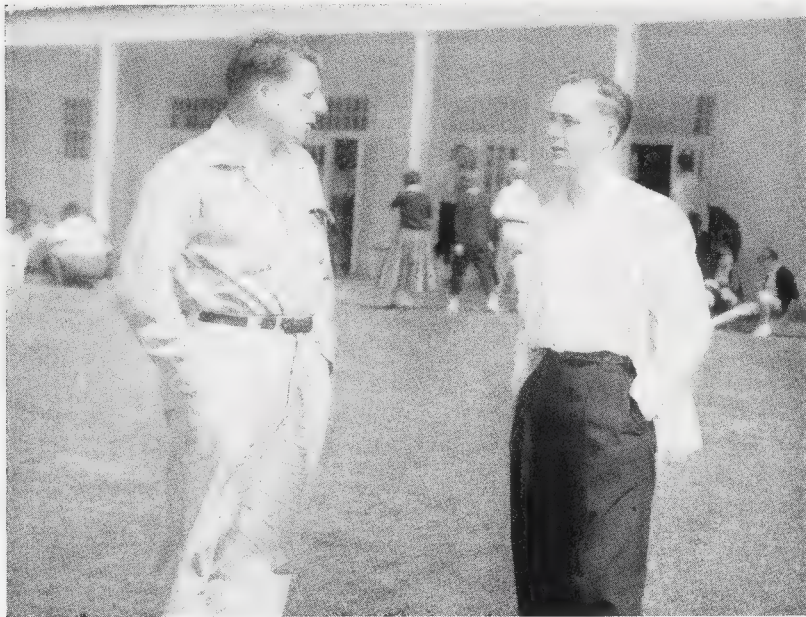
*Bread Loaf Scene (Courtesy of Ann White)*



3. If you desire admission as a Contributor, forward to Mr. Cubeta examples of your published or unpublished work *at the same time that you return your application blank*. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten and will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and full postage or clear directions for return by express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for manuscripts lost in the mails or otherwise. All possible care will be taken to prevent such loss.

4. If you desire admission as an Auditor, return your application, without manuscript, to Mr. Cubeta. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as an Auditor.



Mr. Ciardi and Mr. Cubeta



Applications will be accepted only from people who intend to be present for the whole session. No reduction of rates is offered for part-time attendance.

The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf, both in classrooms and living-quarters, make it impossible to accommodate friends or relatives of members, unless they too are regularly enrolled members.

*Contributors should bring manuscripts in their hand luggage so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day. No manuscripts can be accepted after the second day of the Conference.*

### FELLOWSHIPS

The Conference offers a limited number of fellowships, paying all regular charges at Bread Loaf, but not traveling expenses. A committee of the Conference staff awards the fellowships, guided by the following policies:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to Paul M. Cubeta, Assistant Director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, 727 Pleasant Street, Belmont 78, Massachusetts.
3. Candidates for fellowships are assumed to have published or to have had their manuscripts accepted for publication.
4. All nominations should be in the Assistant Director's hands by April 15. Supporting manuscripts or published work should reach him by May 1.

### THE ROBERT FROST FELLOWSHIP IN POETRY

This annual Fellowship in Poetry is sponsored by Henry Holt and Company, original publishers of Mr. Frost's poetry. The Fellowship is offered for five consecutive years beginning in 1956 and will cover full tuition, room, and board for the period of the Writers' Conference. The Fellowship is awarded annually to a poet of genuine promise to be selected jointly by the Bread Loaf staff and Henry Holt and Company.

### THE BERNARD DE VOTO FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE

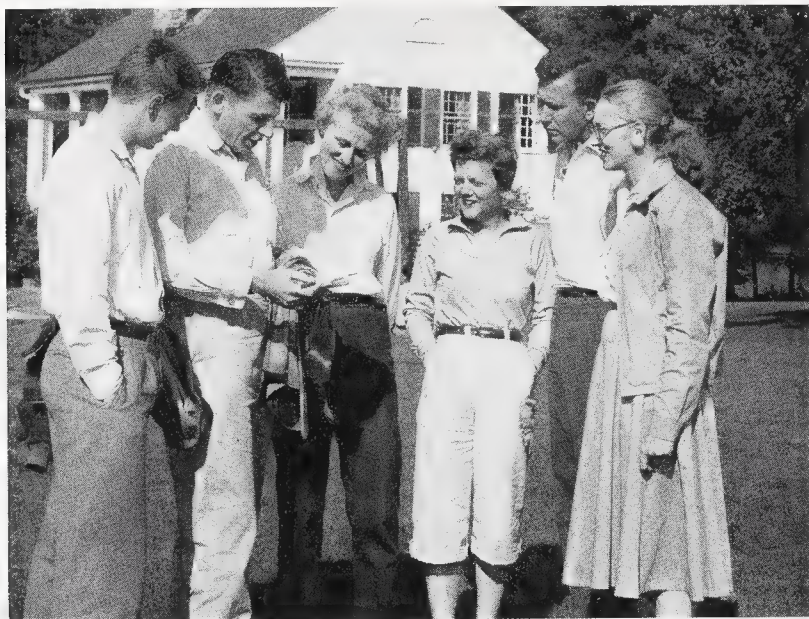
Sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Company in memory of the late Bernard De Voto, long a member of the Conference staff, the fellowship will be offered in 1957 to a writer of promise in the field of non-fiction who will be selected jointly by the Bread Loaf staff and Houghton Mifflin Company.

### THE FUNK AND WAGNALLS FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE

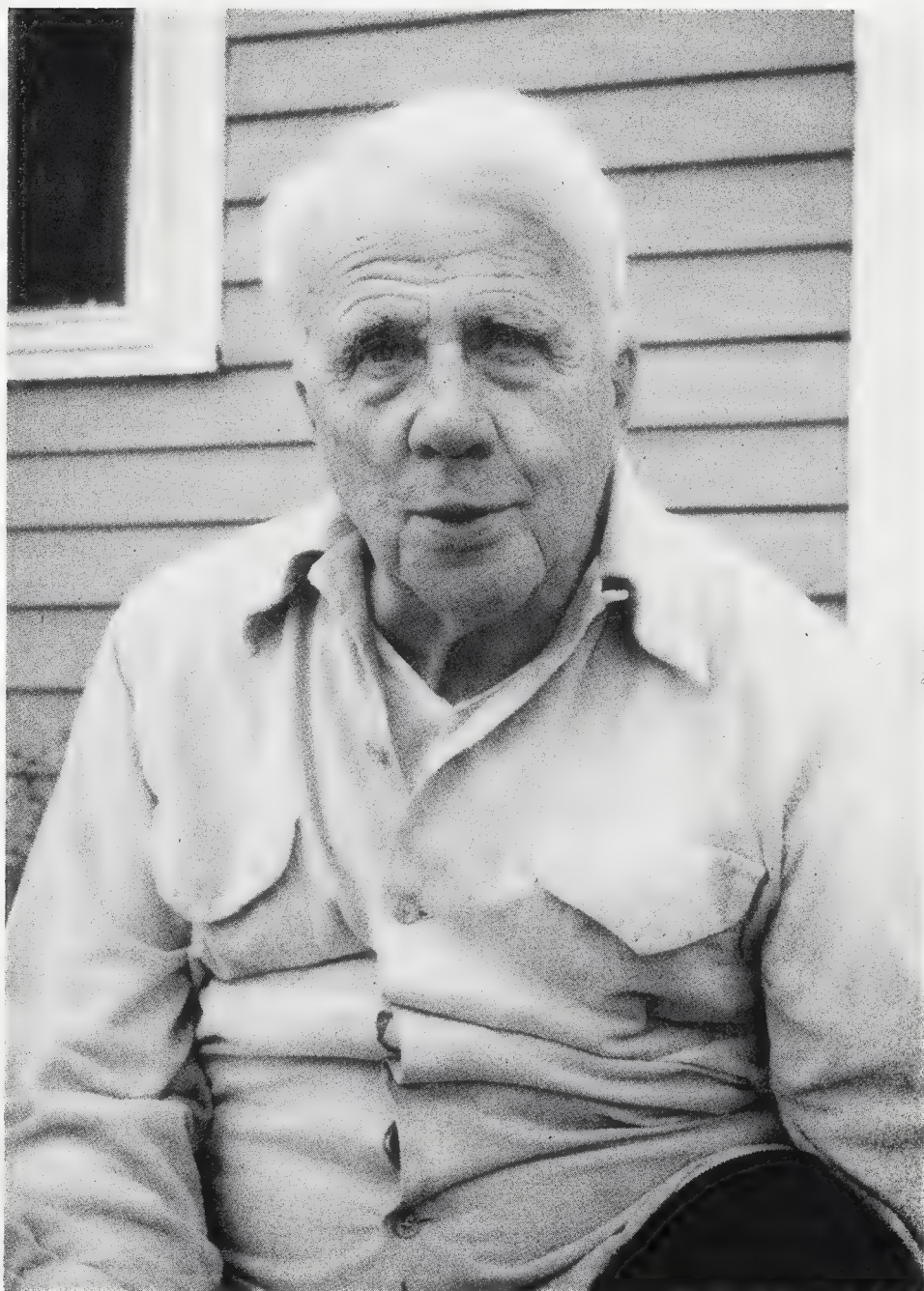
This fellowship, awarded annually by Funk and Wagnalls Company, provides full tuition, board, and room for an outstanding writer in fiction or nonfiction.

### THE FLETCHER PRATT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE

Awarded by W. W. Norton and Company, Curtis Brown, Ltd., and friends of the late Fletcher Pratt, in memory of his long service and shaping influence at Bread Loaf, this fellowship will pay all Conference expenses to a writer of merit in fiction or nonfiction.



*The Ciardis (second from left and far right) talk with friends*



*Robert Frost at Bread Loaf*



## THE WEEKLY READER CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB FELLOWSHIP IN JUVENILE LITERATURE

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference is pleased to announce the establishment for the first time of a fellowship in juvenile literature, made possible through the generosity of the *Weekly Reader* Children's Book Club. The fellowship will provide full tuition, board, and room to an outstanding writer in the field of juvenile literature.

### FEES

The administration reserves the right to make any changes without notice in courses, staff, living arrangements, etc. The following information about fees should be carefully noted:

1. *For Contributors* The charges for Contributors, including board, room, and tuition for the entire term, are from \$170 to \$220, depending on the kind of room desired or available.
2. *For Auditors* The corresponding charges for Auditors are from \$145 to \$195.
3. A nonrefundable registration fee of \$20 will be called for by the Secretary of the Language Schools at the time the applicant is notified that he has been accepted for membership. Rooms will be as-



*Staff and Conference Members Chat in the Barn*

signed only to those whose applications have been accepted and who have paid the registration fee. This fee will be credited against the applicant's total charges.

4. *Make all checks payable to Middlebury College.* Students are urgently advised to avoid delay and inconvenience by bringing all money in the form of money orders, express checks, or cashier's checks on an accredited bank. No personal checks will be cashed at Bread Loaf during the second week of the Conference.

5. Duly accepted members who have paid the registration fee will be considered, after arriving at Bread Loaf, to have contracted for board, room, and tuition and will be required to abide by this arrangement. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.



*A stream at Bread Loaf (Courtesy of Ann White)*



## DATES

The Conference begins with the noon meal on Wednesday, August 14. Registration will take place all day Wednesday, and the first formal meeting will be that evening.

The Conference ends with the noon meal after the final session on Wednesday morning, August 28. Lunch will be served at 11:30 for the convenience of those planning to take an afternoon bus.

## TRANSPORTATION

Middlebury is halfway between Burlington and Rutland, Vermont. Bread Loaf is eleven miles from Middlebury up among the Green Mountains. Members not arriving by automobile will go via the New York Central to Albany, New York; or via the Boston and Maine to Bellows Falls, Vermont; or via the Vermont Central to Essex Junction (Burlington); and make bus connections on the Vermont Transit Lines to Middlebury. There is no railroad passenger service direct to Middlebury. Baggage should be sent by railway express. Bus schedules will be supplied upon request. There are planes to Rutland and Burlington from Boston via Northeast Airlines and from New York via Colonial Airlines.

For members arriving and leaving by bus, taxis will be available for the trip between Bread Loaf and Middlebury at a reasonable fare. Baggage which arrives on or before August 14 will be transported free of charge from Middlebury to Bread Loaf. Members traveling by bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont.

